

department of this issue (so that it may more easily be tabulated in the index of medical literature), the subject being one which should interest all physicians. In connection with this presentation of the federal judge's opinion, it seems pertinent to republish the following editorial which appeared in CALIFORNIA AND WESTERN MEDICINE for January, 1926:

NARCOTIC LAWS AND PHYSICIANS

National and state narcotic laws are being enforced with such superlative stupidity that the honest practice of honest scientific medicine by honest, adequately educated physicians is becoming increasingly more hazardous.

Medical opinion is practically unanimous in this conclusion, and what is more important, doctors everywhere are becoming restive under the autocratic rules of tax collectors as to what a doctor may do for his patients. The intelligent element of the voting public is securing some effective but tardy "education" which may in the course of time produce effective results.

Since the decision of the Supreme Court that our chief narcotic law is—as the doctors always have claimed it to be—purely a revenue measure, sane people in all walks of life are waking up to the surprising fact that we are trying to regulate a health problem by money-getting laws administered by money getters for moneyed reasons. People at last are beginning to realize, as one prominent non-medical citizen recently said, that our government is making huge profits out of a vice.

Laws, rules and regulations are now so numerous that an honest, conscientious doctor often must choose between his duty to his patient and the possible consequences of the law. This is to such an extent that many doctors refuse to take chances with tax collectors, undercover agents and what-not, by doing for sick people what scientific medicine endorses as the best treatment. Few doctors can carry in their minds the numerous things laws and painfully numerous bureaucratic regulations require of them every time they give or prescribe a dose of narcotic drugs.

One of the most illuminating analyses and digests we have seen of the Federal narcotic laws has been recently published—with their endorsement—by the Los Angeles County Medical Association. Every doctor ought to have a copy of this 45-page booklet on his desk, and he ought to study it. In order to pay part of the expense of publication, a price of 25 cents is charged, and the book may be obtained from the Los Angeles Medical Association.

It is suggested that members of the California Medical Association take the time to scan the opinion handed down by Judge Yankwich, because he clearly outlines legal limitations of this revenue measure. On the other hand, members of the Association are strongly advised to be meticulously careful in all diagnosis and treatment in which narcotic medication may be indicated, and especially so in the care of narcotic addicts.

FEDERAL SOCIAL SECURITY PROGRAM: SOME INTERESTING FACTS

For readers who may be interested in some of the facts and figures of the Federal Social Security Program, we have made the following compilation:

A Social Security survey was instituted in June, 1934. Congress authorized the Social Security Program through a congressional act, dated August 14, 1935.

The Social Security Program operates under ten different titles or subdivisions.

The administration of the Social Security Program consists of two major parts:

One, a group of operating or line bureaus; and

Two, an administrative unit (comprising offices of the general counsel, bureaus of research and statistics, accounts and audits, public improvement and informational service).

The operating or line bureau comprising:

The Bureau of Old Age Benefits,

The Bureau of Public Assistance (which in turn includes state grants to needy aged, state grants to dependent children, and also state grants to the blind).

Congressional appropriations to carry out the immediate needs of the Social Security Act are:

For the fiscal year ending June 30, 1936, the sum of \$42,500,000 was expended.

Available at the beginning of the present fiscal year (July 1, 1936) the sum of \$475,253,410.

The Social Security Program provides funds for two types of activities: First, federal activities, pure and simple; and

Second, federal-state activities (the latter implying a cooperation of federal and state appropriations, through federal grants or allocations to states, given, however, only when certain requirements have been fulfilled).

Two of the Major Federal Plans:

1. *Federal Old Age Benefit System.* Pension or retirement system to persons past age 65, not engaged in gainful employment. This division will start payments in January, 1942, from funds collected as federal taxes in equal amounts from employers and employees. The taxation will start in 1937 at 1 per cent, in 1938 it will be 2 per cent, while in 1939 and thereafter the tax will be 3 per cent. The estimated income for 1935 is \$568,400,000. In this program, farm-laborers and domestics are not included. It has been estimated that the federal old age benefit fund in forty years will have to its credit 50 billions of dollars!

2. *Federal Unemployment Compensation.* Here also a separate federal tax will be levied on all employers who employ eight or more persons. Employers will be taxed 1 per cent in 1936, 2 per cent in 1937 and 3 per cent in 1938 and thereafter. The estimated income for this fund in 1936 is \$177,000,000, and for 1938, the sum of \$530,000,000.

Federal-State Allocations:

The \$187,000,000 allocated to the Social Security Bureau for specific activities during the present fiscal year is subdivided as follows:

(a) Federal grants to states for assistance to the needy aged, the sum of \$85,000,000.

(b) Federal grants to states for aid to dependent children, the sum of \$35,000,000.

(c) Federal grants to states to help the blind, the sum of \$8,000,000.

Federal grants to states in many instances must be met dollar for dollar from state funds. (It is of interest to note that while the federal moneys must be handled through a state board, in nearly all instances a "lay advisory committee" is required, to supposedly aid in the distribution of the funds!)

The Federal Government, in making its grants or allocations of federal funds to California, will deal through the State Department of Public Welfare and the State Board of Public Health.

Federal Grants to States for Public Health Work:

A total of \$8,000,000 has been set aside in the United States Treasury Department for allocations to states in

aid of public health work, and an additional \$1,320,000 has been set aside for public health research.

In such allocations or allotments, 57½ per cent of the federal appropriation must be met, dollar for dollar, by the respective states. Another 22½ per cent for aid in special health problems must also be matched by states, dollar for dollar. The remaining 20 per cent can be granted to states, as in the judgment of Public Health Service may be deemed best, it not being necessary to match dollar for dollar in funds from this last 20 per cent.

✓ ✓ ✓

The Children's Bureau of the United States Department of Labor has had allocated to it for the present fiscal year \$6,469,000, subdivided as follows:

Maternal and child-health services, the sum of \$2,820,000;

For aid to crippled children, the sum of \$2,150,000;

For child welfare services, the sum of \$1,200,000.

The allotments for maternal and child-health services, and for aid to crippled children must be met dollar for dollar by the states, but the allocations for child welfare work need not be so matched.

✓ ✓ ✓

We give the above figures in the form presented, because these activities are closely related to conditions having an intimate connection with medical practice. Members of the medical profession, therefore, should be somewhat familiar with these facts because of their possible ultimate influence on medical practice in the days to come.

RATIONAL OR NON-SECTARIAN MEDICINE: DR. WIDNEY'S ANALYSIS OF SECTARIAN MEDICINE, MADE FIFTY YEARS AGO, STILL APPLIES IN CALIFORNIA

Despite the Advances in Scientific and Rational Medicine, Sectarian Healing Art Groups Have Increased During the Last Half Century.

—In the April and May issues* of *CALIFORNIA AND WESTERN MEDICINE* appeared a sketch of exceptional interest outlining the life and accomplishments of Dr. Joseph P. Widney, founder of the Los Angeles County Medical Association; and to add to this valuable chapter in biography, in the June and July numbers was printed an address on "Rational or Liberal Medicine" which he gave some fifty years ago in Los Angeles. Members of the California Medical Association who failed to read these articles denied themselves a rare intellectual and inspirational treat.

At this time we wish to refer particularly to this paper, on a subject we are more prone nowadays to speak of as "Non-Sectarian Medicine," this latter term probably having come into being because of the increasing number of "schools" or "sects" of the healing art, whose propaganda has been sufficiently well conducted, not only to confuse the minds of the laity, but, in addition, to secure for such sects legal recognition in many states.

* * *

California a State with Multiple Healing Art Boards.—California is one of the commonwealths that is afflicted with such multiple healing-

art boards, for in California we have a Medical Board, an Osteopathic Board and a Chiropractic Board. These two groups of healing-art sectarians were not only successful in securing initiative laws to establish their separate boards—equivalent to constitutional amendments—but the osteopathic group even went farther, by incorporating a flexibility to their initiative act, making it possible to secure, through legislative amendments to our own medical practice act, changes especially applicable to themselves! The chiropractors, being less alert, now have what might be called an initiative law so frozen that, whether they do or not desire it, they must recognize the graduates of all incorporated chiropractic schools, no matter how lax the standards in some of their teaching institutions may be!

* * *

How One of the Initiatives Prevents Desirable Amendments to the Medical Practice Act.

—The osteopathic provisions which make it possible for that sect to secure changes by amendments to the state medical practice act would permit that group to raise its legal scholastic standards if it so wished. Unfortunately, it also permits that sect to interpose and object to amendments designed to promote or advance the standards for medical graduates; as witness, for example, our experience of several years ago, when an amendment we submitted to the legislature making obligatory a year of internship as a preliminary requirement to taking the medical board examination failed of passage. On that occasion, the osteopathic group was able to influence a sufficient number of assemblymen and senators to prevent us from securing this much-desired amendment to our own medical practice act! Strange as it may seem, that is the fact!

In California, therefore, we have, first, a medical practice law, enacted by the state legislature; second, a chiropractic law passed by initiative vote of the people, and so frozen in part that only by initiative vote of the citizens can it be amended—a process so expensive as to almost be prohibitive; and, third, an osteopathic practice act also brought into being by initiative vote of the people, but containing a clever provision permitting it to be amended as to standards, through amendments of our own medical practice act which, as already pointed out, may make it difficult for physicians and surgeons to secure amendments applicable to their own schools and graduates unless the same be also acceptable to the osteopaths!

* * *

Printed Announcements of Sectarian Healing Art Schools.—It is not our purpose here to discuss the curricula of the various sectarian healing art schools. These, insofar as printed catalogue expression is concerned, are usually gloriously outlined in announcements, with generous allocations of "hours" to all subjects, from which it is necessary, if one would be properly oriented, to read not only the lines, but between, and also, to confirm mere impressions by personal investi-

* April issue, page 292; May, page 396; June, page 513, and July, page 58.